At anniversary Mass, pope recalls ‘authentic spirit’ of Vatican II

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the start of a special Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI called on Catholics to revive the “authentic spirit” of Vatican II by re-proposing the Church’s ancient teachings to an increasingly Godless modern world.

The observances featured ceremonies recalling milestones of Vatican II, including the enthronement of a book of the Gospels used at the original gathering and a re-presentation of the council’s final “messages” to various categories of lay Catholics, such as artists, workers and women.

“Vatican II, Pope Benedict said, had been “animated by a desire ... to immerse itself anew in the Christian mystery so as to re-propose it fruitfully to contemporary man.”

He noted that Blessed John XIII, in his speech at the opening of the council, called for both the safeguarding and the effective teaching of the “sacred deposit of Christian doctrine ... this certain and immutable doctrine, which is to be faithfully respected, (and) needs to be explored and presented in a way which responds to the needs our time.”

“The council fathers wished to present the faith in a meaningful way,” the pope said, “and if they opened themselves trustingly to..."
Three new American Saints

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

On Sunday, October 21st, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, will canonize seven new saints, three of whom were American. During this Year of Faith, we can be inspired by the example of the saints, extraordinary witnesses to the faith.

Each of the three new American saints freely chose to embrace the radical demands of Christian discipleship, bringing the Gospel of God’s love to the poor and the outcast.

Saint Pedro Calungsod

Pedro Calungsod, a Filipino boy educated by Jesuits, at age 14 had already shown such zeal and ability as a catechist that missionaries invited him to go with them to the Mariana Islands. Pedro and Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores went to Guam, where they converted many Chamorros to Catholicism, including the wife of a village chief, Mata’ pang. The pagan chief did not hide his hostility toward them and toward those who accepted the faith. At the wife’s request, the missionaries went to baptize her newborn daughter. In his fury, Mata’ pang goaded a villager into killing both missionaries. Saint Pedro Calungsod was only 17 or 18 at the time of his martyrdom.

This saint and martyr is a great example for our catechists and our young people, an example of missionary fervor and courage. He reminds us that our youth also have an important role in the new evangelization.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Kateri Tekakwitha was four when smallpox swept through the Mohawk village of Osernenon (now Auriesville, New York), killing her parents and baby brother. The disease left her severely pockmarked, half-blind and lame. When she was 11, missionaries were able to return to her village where three of their predecessors had been martyred. They instructed Kateri in the faith. Her uncle, in whose home she lived, strongly opposed her conversion and tried to force her into marriage. She desired instead to remain a virgin. Her uncle convinced her to the village, and she was denied food for refusing to work on Sundays. A young Mohawk even threatened to kill her for refusing to work on Sundays. A young Mohawk even threatened to kill her if she did not renounce her faith.

Kateri eventually escaped to the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier in Kahnawake, Quebec. There she was baptized and made a vow of chastity. For the remainder of her life, she devoted herself to prayer and acts of charity.

I attended Kateri Tekakwitha’s beatification by Pope John Paul II in 1980 while I was a student in Rome. It was a beautiful event. I remember the many Native Americans who came for the beatification. On the day after the beatification Mass, I served as master of ceremonies at the Mass of Thanksgiving for Kateri’s beatification celebrated by Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia in the chapel of the North American College.

A statue of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha has been ordered for the chapel of the new Saint Joseph High School in South Bend. This humble young virgin, who died at the age of 24, is an example for all of our young people, an example of faith, charity, and courage.

Saint Marianne Cope

Mother Marianne Cope, a Sister of Saint Francis, worked as a teacher and school principal in Syracuse, New York and later helped found and ran Catholic hospitals in New York. In 1883, while serving as Superior General of her congregation, she accepted a plea from the King of Hawaii to care for females afflicted with Hansen’s disease (leprosy). She and six sisters established one hospital, run a second, cared for these women, and opened a home for their children on Oahu.

When the government forced these poor “outcasts” into exile on Molokai, Mother Marianne and her sisters accompanied them. She cared for the dying Father Damien (now Saint Damien) and founded a home for women and girls with Hansen’s disease at the Molokai settlement. There she brought joy, hope, beauty and a sense of dignity into their lives — sewing dresses for them in the latest fashions, teaching them the faith, as well as skills in embroidery and other arts. Pope Benedict has called her a “striking example of sanctity and heroic charity.”

Saint Marianne Cope is also a wonderful example for us, particularly for religious sisters and those who serve in health care.

Our New Saints

In these opening weeks of the Year of Faith, these new saints, extraordinary witnesses of faith, inspire us to live our faith through love of God and neighbor. They each had a deep personal relationship with God, a living faith. They teach us that the witness of holiness is truly universal and is heard by men and women in all walks of life and all ages.
He said the Year of Faith is a wonderful opportunity for all to grow in the knowledge of the precious gift of the Catholic faith. Referring to the urgency for the need of the New Evangelization, Bishop Rhoades noted, “Only 25 percent of Catholics in our country attend Sunday Mass.” There is a secularizing trend in our culture that fosters a mentality in which God is completely or partially left out of life and people’s consciousness. Secularism has even entered the Christian life and is manifested in an attitude of relativism, especially regarding issues of morality. “We need only think of the diminished respect for the sacred gift of human life and the terrible violations against the life and dignity of human beings created in God’s image and likeness, the most vulnerable being those waiting to be born,” Bishop Rhoades added. “We need only think of the relativism that seeks to justify the re-definition of marriage. There are so many cultural forces growing in our society today that are raical to the faith we cherish.”

Bishop Rhoades quoted Pope Benedict XVI, who in Erfurt, Germany, last year posed the question, “Does man need God, or can we live quite well without him?” Pope Benedict then said, “The more the world withdraws from God, the clearer it becomes that man in his hubris of power, in his emptiness of heart, and in his longings for satisfaction and happiness, increasingly loses his life. A thirst for the infinite is indelibly present in human beings. Man was created to have a relationship with God; we need Him.”

Bishop Rhoades said this gets to the heart of the faith. “Our faith is the Good News, the Gospel, not just any piece of good news, but the ‘Good News,’” Bishop Rhoades said. “It is the only answer to the insatiable thirst of the human heart. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a message of profound joy and of radiant truth. It is the power that transforms us, that even transforms the most difficult human experiences: suffering and even death. The fundamental truth is that God has opened His life to us! This is the heart of our faith.”

Faith is a gift of God, a grace, the bishop said. “Yet we are only able to experience this grace to the extent that we accept it and use it within ourselves as a gift by which we seek to live. It consists not only of assent to the truths of revelation, but also of personal commitment to the way of life that is our faith.” Bishop Rhoades concluded, “The Lord commanded the apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. ‘Jesus sent the apostles forth to proclaim the Gospel to every creature,’ Bishop Rhoades said. ‘This is our vocation as Christians.’

“This mission never changes,” Bishop Rhoades said. “The Gospel is perennial, for all time. It doesn’t change. So what is ‘new’ when we speak of the New Evangelization? It’s not the message. The message is 2,000 years old. What is needed is new passion, new ardor in the proclamation of the Gospel today.”

The bishop said the faith should burn within us when we encounter Christ. “When it does, it transforms us and radiates from us,” he said. “It manifests itself in our words and deeds of love. It is seen in our joy. The Year of Faith is an invitation to all of us to experience anew the joy of life in Christ, especially through conversion, ongoing conversion, the New Evangelization of ourselves, our parishes and our communities.”

“The popes have told us that we cannot evangelize unless we are first and continually evangelized ourselves,” Bishop Rhoades said. “It means we need to be men and women of prayer, people who listen to the word of God, who walk the way of Christ. Then and only then are we able to help others to know the beauty of the Gospel that gives life.”

Cardinal Wenzel, who is in the process of selling her home in Fort Wayne and relocating to Indianapolis, told Today’s Catholic she plans to make the year a time of reading the Gospels. “I plan to use the readings throughout the week,” she said, “to use it for my prayer and ask the question, ‘what does it challenge me to do?’ and ‘how does it change me?’”

At the end of the homily, Bishop Rhoades encouraged the faithful to grasp the hand of the Blessed Mother during this Year of Faith. “She who was the first to see and believe the risen Christ,” Bishop Rhoades said, “She who was the first to see the face of God-made-man and helps us to contemplate the face of her Son, that joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious face that we contemplate when we pray the holy rosary,” Bishop Rhoades said.” She is the woman of faith, the pillar of faith, who accompanies us as our spiritual mother during our pilgrimage of faith on this earth.”

The bishop encouraged the Year of Faith to Mary, the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the diocese. Synod members focus on family as primary agents of evangelization

**Continued from page 1**

A combined choir of students from Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers high schools led the music at the opening Mass for the Year of Faith at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Oct. 11.

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Vice presidential candidates outline abortion views in debate

DANVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — In a vice presidential debate full of jousting between Democratic Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the Republican candidate, the topic of abortion got the same treatment.

Both candidates are Catholic, a first in major-party history.

Biden, who supports keeping abortion legal, said Oct. 11: “I accept my Church’s position on abortion” that “life begins at conception in the Church’s judgment. I accept it in my personal life,” before adding, “But I refuse to impose it on equally devout Christians and Muslims and Jews.”

“You want to ask basically why I’m pro-life? It’s not simply because of my Catholic faith,” Ryan said. “That’s a factor, of course. But it’s also because of reason and science.”

Ryan added, “The policy of a Romney administration will be to oppose abortions with the exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother.”

The mechanism of the Catholic Church says Church teaching on “the moral evil of every procured abortion” remains unchangeable. “Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. ... The inalienable right to life of every innocent individual is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation,” it says.

Speaking recently at the Red Masses at Notre Dame and Fort Wayne, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades addressed moral coherency.

“There is a temptation sometimes to lead two parallel lives: one’s life as a Catholic and one’s life as a lawyer, for example,” Bishop Rhoades said in the Red Mass address. “Some Catholic politicians, for example, claim to be personally opposed to abortion, yet are pro-choice in their political lives. This is not acceptable. We have a duty to live a Christian life that is morally coherent.”

Biden said: “I do not believe that we have a right to tell other people that — women they can’t control their body. It’s a decision between them and their doctor. In my view and (that of) the Supreme Court, I’m not going to interfere with that.”

Ryan, responding to a follow-up question from debate moderator Martha Raddatz of ABC News, said, “We don’t think that unelected judges should make these decisions; that’s the job of elected representatives in Congress, their elected representatives in reaching a consensus in society through the democratic process should make this determination.”

Biden replied, “The next president will get one or two Supreme Court nominees. That’s how close (to being overturned) Roe v. Wade is. Just ask yourself, with Robert Bork being the chief adviser on the court for — for Mr. (Mitt) Romney (the Republican presidential candidate), who do you think he’s likely to appoint? Do you think he’s likely to appoint someone like (Justice Antonin) Scalia or someone else on the court right far that would … outlaw abortion? I suspect that would happen.”

Bork, an opponent of abortion, was a Ronald Reagan nominee to the Supreme Court, and became one of the rare nominees rejected by the Senate because of his views.

Responding to a question posed directly by Ryan, Biden said there was “no litmus test” on abortion when President Barack Obama nominated Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the high court.

During the give-and-take on abortion, Biden and Ryan tangled on the federal Health and Human Services mandate that most religious employers provide free contraceptive coverage to employees.

“They’re infringing upon our first freedom, the freedom of religious employers, Catholic employers ‘will have to serve as a vehicle, because they will still be forced to provide their employees with health coverage, and that coverage will have to include sterilization, contraception, and abortifacients,’” according to the USCCB statement.

“I accept my Church’s position on abortion,” Biden replied. “That is a factor. The mandate’s limited religious exemption applies only to those Catholic and other religious organizations that seek to inculcate their religious values and primarily employ and serve people of their own faith. Also there is no conscience clause for employers.”

More than a dozen lawsuits against the mandate were filed in May by more than 40 dioceses and Catholic organizations. Since then the other dioceses and Catholic entities have joined in those suits or filed their own. Additionally, suits have been brought by various Catholic and Protestant colleges, organizations or individual employers.

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USCCB responds to inaccurate statement of fact on HHS Mandate made during vice presidential debate

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued the following statement, Oct. 12. Full text follows:

Last night, the following statement was made during the vice presidential debate regarding the decision of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to force virtually all employers to include sterilization and contraception, including drugs that may cause abortion, in the health insurance coverage they provide their employees:

“With regard to the assault on the Catholic Church, let me make it absolutely clear. No religious institution — Catholic or otherwise, including Catholic social services, Georgetown Hospital, Mercy hospital, any hospital — none has to either refer contraception, none has to pay for contraception, none has to be a vehicle to get contraception in any insurance policy they provide. That is a fact. That is a fact.

“This is not a fact. The HHS mandate contains a narrow, four-part exemption for certain "religious employers." That exemption was made final in February and does not extend to "Catholic social services, Georgetown hospital, Mercy hospital, any hospital," or any other religious charity that offers its services to all, regardless of the faith of those served.

"HHS has proposed an additional "accommodation" for religious organizations like these, which ‘HHS itself describes as ‘non-exempt.’ That proposal does not even potentially relieve these organizations from the obligation "to pay for contraception" and "to be a vehicle to get contraception." They will have to serve as a vehicle, because they will still be forced to provide their employees with health coverage, and that coverage will have to include sterilization, contraception and abortifacients. They will have to pay for these things, because the premiums that the organizations (and their employees) are required to pay will still be applied, along with other funds, to cover the cost of these drugs and surgeries."

USCCB continues to urge HHS, in the strongest possible terms, actually to eliminate the various infringements on religious freedom imposed by the mandate.

— Oct. 12, 2012

Catholic employers “will have to serve as a vehicle, because they will still be forced to provide their employees with health coverage, and that coverage will have to include sterilization, contraception, and abortifacients,” the USCCB statement said. “They will have to pay for these things, because the premiums that the organizations — and their employees — are required to pay will still be applied, along with other funds, to cover the cost of these drugs and surgeries.”

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Pope presents Vatican II messages for laypeople to help change world

BY SARAH DELANEY
AND CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a gesture recalling how the Second Vatican Council sought to enhance the connection between the Church and the world, Pope Benedict XVI handed out copies of the council’s messages to laypeople in various walks of life.

At the end of the Mass in St. Peter’s Square marking the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II and the start of the Year of Faith, the pope gave out texts of the special messages that Pope Paul VI had composed for seven categories of the faithful; Pope Benedict chose contemporary representatives of those groups to receive the messages Oct. 11.

The symbolic gesture was meant not just to recall and commemorate an event from the past, but to “enter more deeply into the spiritual movement, which characterized Vatican II, to make it ours and to develop it according to its true meaning,” the pope said in his homily.

The seven messages, initially presented by Pope Paul on Dec. 8, 1965, address the concerns and responsibilities of political leaders; scientists and cultural figures; artists; women; workers; the poor, sick and suffering; and young people.

Pope Benedict gave the “Message to Politicians” to some members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See, including ambassadors to the Vatican from each continent.

The message said that the only thing the Church asks of politicians is freedom — “the liberty to believe and to preach her faith, the freedom to love her God and serve Him, the freedom to live and to bring to men her message of life. Do not fear her.”

It added: “Allow Christ to exercise His purifying action on society. Do not crucify Him anew.”

Pope Benedict, who was standing and shook each person’s hand, gave an Italian physicist, a German philosopher and a German Biblicalist copies of the “Message to the World of Culture and Science.”

The message speaks of the clear possibility for “a deep understanding between real science and real faith, mutual servants of one another in the one truth. Do not stand in the way of this important meeting. Have confidence in faith, this great friend of intelligence.”

James MacMillan, a Scottish composer; Italian sculptor Arnaldo Pompodoro; and two members of Italy’s film industry accepted the “Message to Artists.”

The message said the world “needs beauty in order not to sink into despair.” Artists are “the guardians of beauty” and should be free from fads and “strange or unbecoming expressions.”

Kathryn Lopez, a U.S. journalist and editor-at-large of the National Review Online; Annalisa Minetti, an Italian 2012 Paralympic medalist in track; a Chinese nun who teaches theology; and others received the “Message to Women.” It said the current age is when “the vocation of woman is being achieved in its fullness, the hour in which woman acquires in the world an influence, an effect and a power never hitherto achieved.”

“Our technology runs the risk of becoming inhuman. Recompose men with life and above all, we beseech you, watch carefully over the future of our race. Hold back the hand of man who, in a moment of folly, might attempt to destroy human civilization,” it says.

Those receiving the “Message to Workers” included Luis Urzua Iribarren, one of the 33 Chilean miners trapped underground for two months in 2010. The Church appreciates workers’ service and virtues such as “courage, dedication, professional conscience, love of justice,” the pope said.

A doctor, nurse and woman who lost her daughter to a car accident received the “Message to all the Poor, Sick and Suffering.” The pope descended the sarcisty’s stairs to greet and deliver the message to a woman seated in a wheelchair.

The message says Christ “took suffering upon Himself and this is enough to make you understand all its value.’”

“Know that you are not alone, separated, abandoned or useless. You have been called by Christ and are His living and transparent image,” the message says.

Pope Paul’s “Message to Young People” was received by young Catholics from Brazil, Congo, the Philippines, France and by Anna Frodars from Sydney and Robert Prybyla from Round Rock, Texas.

The message called on young people to dedicate their energy to those in need. “Fight against all egotism. Refuse to give free course to the instincts of violence and hatred which beget wars and all their train of miseries. Be generous, pure, respectful and sincere, and build in enthusiasm a better world than your elders had.”

Caroline Farey of the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, England, who was attending the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization, was one of two catechists who received from Pope Benedict a special Year of Faith edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, told journalists Oct. 9 that men and women, some well-known and some not, were chosen from all over the world because “this is the Church we are addressing, like at the time of the council.”

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Defending life, liberty part of the New Evangelization, archbishop says

BY MARK ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At what is a critical time for American Catholics to stand up in defense of life and religious freedom, they must engage in the Church’s New Evangelization effort, deepening their faith and sharing it in their everyday lives and in the public square, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori said Oct. 14.

He made the comments in the homily at a Mass and Pilgrimage for Life and Liberty at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

“If we want to turn back the powerful incursions of secularism against the dignity of human life and the freedom to practice our faith, then we must heed the call of Pope Benedict XVI to engage in the New Evangelization, to stand with Christ, to know our faith, to love our faith, (and) to share our faith,” he said.

Archbishop Lori, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, was the main celebrant at the Mass, which drew a standing room crowd of an estimated 5,500 to 6,000 people. Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States, was in attendance.

The Mass and pilgrimage are part of the U.S. bishops’ annual Respect Life prayer campaign; each year October is designated as Respect Life Month by the U.S. Catholic Church. The liturgy concluded with Eucharistic Adoration and the launch of an Oct. 14-22 Rosary Novena for Life and Liberty.

“This afternoon, we speak with one voice as we raise our voices in supplication to God for the protection of our first and most cherished freedom, religious liberty and for the protection of all life, from conception to natural death,” Msgr. Walter K. Rossi, shrine rector, told the congregation.

The overflow crowd filling the national shrine included families with babies in strollers, and senior citizens and people with disabilities in wheelchairs. People came from not only the Washington area but many other states as well.

The opening procession included a Knights of Columbus color guard of 120 men wearing white, gold, green, purple and blue plumed hats. During the Eucharistic Adoration and rosary novena, the diverse congregation crowding the pews and aisles knelt and prayed together for life and liberty.

As Mass opened, Archbishop Lori thanked people for coming from near and far “as a family of faith united in our defense of life and liberty.”

In his homily, the archbishop warned that “for some time now, both life and liberty have been under assault ... (by) a secularism that relentlessly seeks to marginalize the place of faith in our society.” He also noted, “When man and woman are no longer perceived to be created in the image of God, then, sooner or later, their lives and their liberties become dispensable.”

Archbishop Lori pointed out how, in the nearly 40 years since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand in its Roe v. Wade decision, more than 50 million unborn children have lost their lives through abortion.

The secularist assault on life, he said, can also be seen in efforts in the United States to legalize assisted suicide and to redefine marriage. Archbishop Lori emphasized the key threat to life and liberty posed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ mandate requiring “most religious and private employers to fund and facilitate abortion-inducing drugs, sterilizations and contraception against their convictions if they engage in hiring or offer services deemed by the government to be ‘secular.’

A narrow religious exemption applies only to those religious employers who seek to inculcate their religion and who primarily employ and serve people of their own faith.

The mandate is currently being challenged in courts around the country by Catholic dioceses and agencies and other religious individuals and groups.

In his homily, Archbishop Lori pointed out the irony in those advocating “freedom of choice” are trying to force people of faith to violate their religious’ teachings. “Our ‘right to choose’ — our right to choose to practice the faith we profess, a right guaranteed by the First Amendment — seems to mean little or nothing to many who wield power.”

The archbishop noted that many secular threats to religious liberty “seem to hinge on the Church’s teaching with regard to the sanctity of life — whether it’s the Church’s teaching on the immorality of abortion, or the obligation of couples to be open to the God-given gift of human life, or marriage as between one man and one woman.”

Archbishop Lori said the link between the God-given gifts of life and liberty was noted by Thomas Jefferson, who once said: “The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy but cannot disjoin them.”

As the Year of Faith opens and as the country approaches a time of decision with its elections, Archbishop Lori called it a critical time for Catholics to engage in Pope Benedict’s call to the New Evangelization.

“With Mary’s prayers, we seek to have the fire of our faith rekindled — our faith in the person of Christ, our faith in all the Church believes and teaches, our confidence in the Church’s teachings, and our courage in sharing those teachings, not just with family and friends, but in the public square, with our elected leaders, our appointed leaders and with those who influence public opinion.”

He said it is wrong for Catholics to compartmentalize their faith, and as an example, he criticized Catholic elected officials “who say they are personally opposed to intrinsic evils like abortion, while doing everything in their power to protect them.”

Archbishop Lori urged Catholics to take their faith to the public square and to the voting booth.

“As believers and as citizens, we must robustly engage in the political process by voting with a properly formed conscience and by continually letting our elected officials know that we expect them to protect the God-given rights of life and liberty,” he said.
Dismas House hosts Forgiveness Breakfast

SOUTH BEND — Dismas House, a nonprofit organization that provides transitional housing, meals, programs and services to men and women recently released from incarceration, will host the Dismas Forgiveness Breakfast on Oct. 25 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 53995 Indiana State Route 933 in South Bend.

The event is open to all ages, and Dismas House encourages those who wish to attend to bring someone to forgive or seek forgiveness from.

To become a Forgiveness Sponsor purchase a $250 reserved table of eight or for reservations to this free event call (574) 233-8522 or email dismassouthbend@sbcglobal.net, by Oct. 22. Donations will be accepted.

Dismas House has served close to 700 former offenders at 521 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend, since 1986. For more information on Dismas House visit www.dismassouthbend.org.

Central Catholic Classes of 1938-42 reunite

FORT WAYNE — The Mallory Room in hall’s Guest House restaurant was the site of celebration for 17 Central Catholic High School alumni from the charter classes of 1938-42 and their spouses, who gathered for a 70th class reunion luncheon on Sept. 15. Those in attendance, including class vice president Mary Jane Berghoff Whalen and secretary Rita Bobay Bassert, reminisced about days gone by, sang old familiar songs, and remembered class officers who had gone before them, including Tom Offerle and Dick Krouse. Two hundred sixty students embodied the graduating class of 1942 at Central Catholic High School, which opened its doors in 1938. The school building that was located on Lewis and Clinton streets was demolished in 1985.

USF staging first downtown musical with ‘Will Rogers Follies’

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis School of Creative Arts will continue its theatrical performances in the new USF Performing Arts Center with ‘The Will Rogers Follies,’ the first musical in the downtown center, on Nov. 9-11 and 16-18.

The show will illustrate the life of Will Rogers, the comedian and headline of the Ziegfeld Follies, through a series of Follies-like variety acts and lavish production numbers directed by Leslie Beanchamp and Todd Frymier, with choreography by Abby Ehinger. Political satire will resonate in this time of political controversy.

Performances are Fridays through Sundays, with show times at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Adults are $15 for the general public and $12 for senior citizens and children under 10. Group discounts are available. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time for general seating in the USF Performing Arts Center at 431 W. Berry Street.

“The Will Rogers Follies” is produced by special arrangement with the Tams-Witmark Music Library. The book is by Peter Stone and the music composed and arranged by Cy Coleman, with lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The production is made possible in part by the Marilyn and William Wunderlin Family Foundation.

A tale of success in two cities and one county

NOTRE DAME — Jeff Rea brings his unique business success story to Holy Cross College Tuesday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m., in Driscoll Auditorium on the campus for the next “Practical Lessons in Success” seminar.

Rea, as president/CEO of the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce, represents the economic interests of over 1,100 businesses and 85,000 plus employees. As mayor of Mishawaka for over six years, Rea knows how government and business needs to work together to achieve positive results.

The government, not-for-profit and business sectors function in three key areas: economic development, public policy and education. When these units coordinate efforts success is the outcome.

The presentation was originally scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 24, however due to a schedule conflict it will now be held Oct. 25.

Holy Cross College seminars are free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception on campus.

National Merit semi-finalists announced

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School has announced that Sean MacManus, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, Parish and School, and Nancy McNamara, St. Mary Parish and St. Joseph, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, qualified as National Merit semi-finalists based on their performance on their PSAT.

Ancilla College launches Creative Commerce free workshop series

DONALDSON — Ancilla College will launch a series of free public workshops on planning, funding and building successful businesses titled “Creative Commerce” for entrepreneurs and business professionals designed to bring together business veterans with new business owners and entrepreneurs.

The series includes:

• Oct. 18 — “Things to Consider if You Are Thinking of Starting a New Business,” with Alan D. Steele, business advisor for the North Central Indiana Small Business Development Center.

• Oct. 25 — “You Can’t Drive Through the Lake: Northern Indiana and Our Logistics Future.” Speaker to be announced.

• Nov. 1 — “How I Built My Business and What I Learned Along the Way.” Speaker to be announced.

• Nov. 8 — “The ABC’s of Financing a New Business,” with Tim Braun, Elevate Ventures; Dale Cramer, Lake City Bank; and Ted Schaffer, Business Development Corporation.

University of Saint Francis is presenting “Catholic Citizenship @ Corby’s,” a series of talks and discussions on being a faithful citizen.


The talks and discussions begin at 7:30 p.m. at Corby’s Irish Pub, 441 E. LaSalle Ave., in South Bend. Joe Mitigga, the owner of Corby’s and a parishioner at St. Joseph Church, provides the space and opens the kitchen to serve pizza and soda to the attendees.

For more information, contact Debi Haug at dhaug@stjoeparish.org or call (574) 234-3134, ext. 23.

USF hosting state’s only AMC test in November

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host the state’s only American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 8 on Tuesday, Nov. 13, in the Doermer Family Center for Health Science Education. First administered in 1950, the AMC 8’s purpose is to increase interest in mathematics and science and develop problem-solving ability through a series of friendly mathematics competitions for students in grades 5-8.

Activities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with food and refreshments. The 40-minute tests will follow. A program will be available to parents during the tests, and the event will wrap up with awards.

The university will offer an optional one-hour AMC preparatory session in the Doermer building on Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. For additional practice problems, visit http://amc.maa.org. To register for the competition, contact Carolyn Exner at cexner@sf.edu or (260) 399-8067.

Contact USF, Department of Mathematics Chair Dr. Victor Kutsenok at vkutsenok@sf.edu or (260) 399-7700, ext. 8237; or School of Business Dean Dr. Matt Smith at rmsnith@sf.edu or (260) 399-7700, ext. 8105 for more information about the AMC.
**INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE (ICC):** www.indianacc.org
**INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE:** www.indianacc.org
**Additional Resources:**
Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC): www.indianacc.org
United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB):
Faithful Citizenship document www.usccb.org/issues-and-
ALLEN COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE HOSTS ANNUAL BANQUET

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offered the opening prayer and Franciscan Father David Mary Engo was the guest speaker at the Allen County Right to Life Banquet for Life held Oct. 8 at the Fort Wayne Grand Wayne Center. An auction held at the dinner brought in over $27,000 total including over $11,000 from Catholic hosts such as Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Father Engo, spiritual artist Mary Hilger and retired Bishop Dwenger High School Principal Fred Tone, shown above, right, with auctioneer Dennis Kruse at the podium, and chef Johnny Bojinoff, center. At the dinner, Cathie Humbarger, executive director of the Allen County Right to Life, announced that new abortion statistics demonstrate a 56 percent decrease in abortions in Allen County since 2006. In 2006, 658 babies were aborted and in 2011 the number decreased to 290 babies. She also announced that the Department of Justice declined to take action against Fort Wayne’s abortion facility for its noncompliance with the federal law known as the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Humbarger filed a personal complaint with the DOJ against the abortion facility in July.

SAINT JOSEPH COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE PRESENTS AWARDS AT ANNUAL BANQUET

Saint Joseph County Right to Life President Tom Gill presents the Brother John Lavelle, CSC, Scholarship award to Margaret Stoyell-Mulholland, center, and Monica Murphy, two area students who inspire and lead other young people by their actions and words to defend the unborn. Saint Joseph County Right to Life to Life President Tom Gill presents the Brother John Lavelle, CSC, Scholarship award to two area students who inspire and lead other young people by their actions and words to defend the unborn.

SOUTH BEND — Celebrating their annual benefit dinner earlier this month, Saint Joseph County Right to Life President Tom Gill presented the Brother John Lavelle, CSC, Scholarship award to two area students who inspire and lead other young people by their actions and words to defend the unborn.

Recipient Monica Murphy, a senior at Saint Mary’s College, has been active in the pro-life cause since her days at Saint Joseph High School. In addition to praying at the local abortion clinic and attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C., Murphy recently started her own juvenile outreach program in South Bend called SHAPE to encourage young girls to live fulfilling lives. The other scholarship recipient, Margaret Stoyell-Mulholland, a sophomore at the University of Notre Dame, has also been passionately pro-life since high school where she was president of a group called Voices for Peace and Life. She currently serves as vice-president of operations for Notre Dame Right to Life.

The scholarship is named for the late Holy Cross Brother John Lavelle, who is remembered for his tireless pro-life efforts and is awarded annually by SJCRTL.

— Diane Freeby

CHRISTIAN COMPOSER PERFORMS FOR ST. VINCENT STUDENTS

Christian music artist John Angotti and his band performs a two-hour outdoor Christian music concert on the grass outside St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne on Sept. 24 for kindergarten through eighth-grade students and faculty of St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne.

BISHOP BLESSES MARRIAGE JUBILARIANS

“You said ‘Yes’ to God and embarked on a holy journey together.” With these words Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades congratulated and encouraged 39 couples who celebrated wedding anniversaries ranging from 25 to 65 years at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sunday, Oct. 14. Concluding his remarks, Bishop Rhoades returned to the journey theme, reminding the couples that in marriage, they met the One who is the source of their marriage, the Lord Jesus, and prayed that He in the Most Holy Eucharist would increase their love and strengthen them on their journey of holiness. After Mass the couples joined with family members and guests for a reception at St. Mary Church.
St. Patrick Parish celebrates a century and a half of growth

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

ARCOLA — St. Patrick Catholic Church has been a landmark in the tiny village of Arcola for a century and a half, drawing Catholics from Fort Wayne and many smaller communities nearby. The church steeple can be seen for miles across the lush farmland, drawing the faithful to worship.

St. Patrick Parish dates back to 1845, when then-vicar general of the Fort Wayne diocese, Msgr. Julian Benoit, began holding services for area Catholics in the home of Victor Munier. This continued for many years until the parish was officially established in 1862 and placed under the care of Father P.J. Jadden, its first pastor. Father Henry Schafer and Father Theodore Van Der Poel followed in quick succession.

Then parishioners build the first church and priest’s residence on the grounds in 1868, and established nearby Calvary Cemetery that same year.

Father Theodore Wilken was appointed pastor in 1872, then Father Bartholomew Hartman in 1880, when the first school building was erected. At that time 75 families called St. Patrick’s their home parish.

One early pastor who stands out in church history is Father Robert Pratt, who persuaded Sister M. Hyacintha Neurath, provincial of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, to bring her fellow sisters to teach the 39 students enrolled at the parish school. Father Pratt also laid the cornerstone for the present-day church, which was dedicated by Auxiliary Bishop John Guendling in 1899. Along with Father Wilken and parish families, Father Pratt also donated money for the stained glass windows of the new edifice. Total cost of construction was $10,934.

Several more pastors oversaw growth of the new church at a time when parish societies included Rosary Society for married women, Children of Mary for single women and St. Aloysius Society for single men. It is also reported that pew rent supported the church.

By the 1920s St. Patrick Church and rectory were supplied with electricity. A parking lot was paved in 1936, an organ was installed in 1939 and the church was redecorated in 1941 at a cost of $2,275. Parishioners celebrated St. Patrick’s diamond jubilee the following year.

In 1951 Father Jacob Bick laid the cornerstone for a new school building to replace the original one, which was heated only by a wood stove and had no running water or restrooms. The cost of construction was $36,150, added to a new convent for the sisters at a cost of $17,500. But sadly, by 1969 the school had to be closed when the teaching nuns left the area and returned to their motherhouse.

Years passed as new pastors arrived, then left St. Patrick’s. In the 1990s Father Eugene Koers was appointed just in time to oversee a huge renovation project. New paint, carpet, roofing and sound system were installed and the stained glass windows refurbished in order to celebrate 100 years in the church building first erected in 1899.

The year 2001 brought the arrival of Father Cyril Fernandes, on assignment to the parish from the Diocese of Jamshedpur, India, who began an eight-year stint at the rural church. An affable and engaging cleric, he drew many parishioners to the small country parish at a time when the city of Fort Wayne was growing steadily westward. Expansion became necessary once again as the parish population grew from 160 families to nearly 400.

A new rectory was built for him and future pastors, while ground was broken for a new parish hall. Officially opened and dedicated by then-Bishop John M. D’Arcy in 2007, the hall featured badly needed classrooms for religious education, parish offices, library space and conference rooms. An infant cry room and new restrooms were constructed in the adjoining hallway.

With Father Fernandes’ reassignment in 2009, the Diocese of Jamshedpur once again provided a pastor for St. Patrick’s. Now Father Alex Dodrai has joined the ranks of clergy who will provide spiritual leadership for the Catholic community of St. Patrick’s, Arcola, into its next half century.

Thanks be to God to the priests, sisters, and founding families of our beloved St. Patrick parish... and for the heavenly blessings which have sustained the St. Patrick community for 150 years.
St. Patrick Parish is growing, thriving after 150 years

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

ARCOLA — The Catholic parish of St. Patrick in Arcola may have its roots in the mid-1800s, but its outlook is rosy and its population is growing well into the 21st century.

The parish will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 28, when Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the 10 a.m. Mass, followed by a reception and dinner in the parish hall for parishioners, previous pastors and other invited guests.

Father Alex Dodrai, the most recent in a long line of pastors at the small rural church, calls it “a wonderful parish,” where “the people are very loving, very generous.” Indeed, it appears to be thriving, with a parish population of more than 400 families and activities for members of all ages.

Parishioner and church historian Jim Bottone speaks highly of their Knights of Columbus chapter, an 80-member organization, which supports several charities locally and around the state. One institution, which benefits from their generosity, is the Gibault School in Crystal Lake, a court-appointed children in Terre Haute.

Bottone also speaks highly of their Knights of Columbus chapter, an 80-member organization, which supports several charities locally and around the state. One institution, which benefits from their generosity, is the Gibault School in Crystal Lake, a court-appointed children in Terre Haute. The group also boasts “Support our Seminarians,” a project that provides funding not only for local priests-in-training but those in Father Dodrai’s home diocese in India as well. The K of C members also provide labor as needed for the church, recently completing a painting project. Bottone says, “We’re very much at father’s call!”

Many women in the parish are active in the long-standing Rosary Society. Father Dodrai calls it “a nice corps of older and younger women ... who do a very good job.” He acknowledges that the ladies run the parish’s most successful fundraiser, the annual fish fry. “People really enjoy our fish fry,” he says with a big smile.

Father Dodrai is also proud of the religious education program, with a current CCD enrollment of 180 students and 28 volunteer catechists. Young parishioners are also active as altar servers. They are said to be very reverent and respectful due to the training of Nick Schortgen.

The parish is fortunate to have an active teen group, headed for years by Gus and Roxann Trahin, which recently took an extensive religious trip to a Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City.

The music ministry is in good hands at St. Patrick’s. Each Sunday the parish enjoys the talent and dedication of music director Trebor Trahin and the church choir. He follows on the heels of two women, Francie Strack and Rosina Harber, who together dedicated more than 60 years to organ duties at St. Patrick’s.

Those parishioners who are widowed find companionship with the Irish Loners, headed by Barb Brown. It is a social group that meets regularly for lunch and bingo. “Manalive” appeals to men in the parish and Bible study groups are open to all.

The generous spirit of St. Patrick’s is very much in evidence, says parish administrator Patty Denihan. She happily points out that the parish Confirmation class sponsors a Giving Tree each year at Christmas, which benefits the Women’s Care Center. “We take carloads of items ... it’s so beautiful,” she says. Another vital parish ministry is the food bank, supported entirely by parishioners.

St. Patrick’s is a parish of willing volunteers. Father Dodrai calls it a “very homely parish,” referring to its home-like atmosphere. He says, “People are very cooperative and supportive.” Bottone, a conservative Catholic, recalls looking for a small parish when he joined, a place where he could be comfortable, “sit back and enjoy Mass” with a friendly, welcoming group of fellow parishioners.

Denihan, a lifelong parishioner, agrees that St. Patrick’s is a parish of volunteers. “We have what we have here because of the holy and wonderful priests.” But, she adds, “the priests come and go, the people don’t.” “The people are the spiritual heart of the parish, the center of it all.”
Rally for Religious Freedom rally set Oct. 27

SOUTH BEND — The Rally for Religious Freedom will take place Saturday, Oct. 27, in South Bend. Today’s Catholic columnist Theresa Thomas will join Charles Rice, professor emeritus of law at the University of Notre Dame to share their thoughts on the threats posed to Catholics and all Americans by the Affordable Health Care Act Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandate.

The mandate, which requires all businesses to provide coverage for contraception, sterilization, and abortifacient drugs, is recognized by many as a dangerous intrusion by the government into the lives of individual citizens and employers. “We must not be afraid,” says Thomas, a wife and mother of nine. “We must talk to our friends, our neighbors, the bagger at the grocery store; our fellow teachers, union members, lawyers, archi-
tects, postal workers. No matter what our occupations are, no mat-
ter what country our ancestors emigrated from, we are in this together.”

Many believe it to be not just a “Catholic issue” but an issue vital to the freedoms of all Americans. “If Catholics are forced to go against their religious beliefs today, Protestants will be targeted tomorrow,” adds Thomas. “Jewish. Amish. You name it. Religious freedoms will be chipped away, little by little, and soon there will be no freedoms at all.”

Rice is a long time pro-life, pro-family advocate and has written numerous books on these issues. His specialization is con-
stitutional law and jurisprudence. Rice served in the United States Marine Corps and is a retired lieu-
tenant colonel in the Marine Corps

**2012 Fall Sharanathon**

**Family of Faith**

Listen & pledge at RedeemerRadio.com

Call 260-436-1450

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<th>Wednesday, October 24</th>
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<td>Women’s Care Center</td>
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<td>Dr. Landrigan, Anne Koehl</td>
<td>Greg Erlandson, Sean McBride</td>
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<td>Allen County Right to Life</td>
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<td>Cathie Humbarger</td>
<td>Sally Ley &amp; Tony Ley</td>
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<td>Most Precious Blood</td>
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<td>Fr. Joe Gaughan</td>
<td>Parish, School &amp; Knights</td>
<td>Fr. Daniel &amp; Fr. James</td>
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<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
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<td>Msgr. John Kuzmic, Fr. Andrew</td>
<td>All Pledges Doubled</td>
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<td>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</td>
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<td>Fr. Jim Shafer</td>
<td>Ron Rieder, Fr. John Pfister</td>
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<td>MAN ALIVE!</td>
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<td>Franciscan Brothers Minor</td>
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**Bishop Luers announces Distinguished Knights**

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School Alumni Office has announced its Distinguished Knights for 2012-2013. The Alumni Office honors one gradu-
ate and an honorary alumnus — friend, faculty, former faculty, staff or benefactor — who have contributed outstanding and dis-
tinguished service to his or her chosen profession and commu-
nity. These individuals live out the mission of Bishop Luers High School in his or her everyday life and contribute outstanding dedica-
tion, support and service to Bishop Luers.

Outstanding alumnus, Jim Saul, class of 1963, is the epit-
ome of Bishop Luers Spirit. He has lived out the saying, “once a Knight, always a Knight.” His strong faith, loyalty to Catholic

education and a love of the south side of Fort Wayne makes him the perfect candidate for this award. Not only is Jim Saul a Bishop Luers grad, but he also sent nine children to Bishop Luers. He has volunteered his time in the athletic department, the music department and the development office. His son says that his father Jim is the quintessential Knight.

**Prison Fellowship seeking mentors**

FORT WAYNE — Faith Based Mentoring Ministries will pres-
ent mentor training from Prison Fellowship facilitated by Jim Halstead on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Sweetwater Sound, 5501 U.S. Highway 30 West in Fort Wayne. A continental breakfast and coffee will be provided. For information, contact Tomi Cardin at (260) 446-2205, Bob Wearley at (260) 410-1592 or through email at faith-basedmentoring@gmail.com.
Local teens are Catholics on a mission

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A group of local teens and their moms are currently on a mission, working overtime to make their dream of serving on a mission trip to Central America a reality. Their focus is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jenn MacDonald, of St. Jude Parish, and Stacy Gill of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, are the forerunners of this dream, but say it all started with their children, most of whom are long-time friends, youth group buddies and some even siblings.

Brenna Gill, Stacy’s daughter, recently read a riveting book about a high school-aged teen who discovered her calling to be a missionary while on a mission trip. As the book was shared among her friends David Landrigan, Katie Killen, Eddie Black, Michael McGovern, Katie, Emma and Drew MacDonald, and her brother A.J., the inspired teens formed the idea to serve on a mission trip of their own.

“The kids came to me,” says Jenn MacDonald. “They really wanted to go.” Her friend and fellow home-school mom, Stacy Gill, who has personal experience serving on mission trips, adds, “I want to see them do this.”

After taking the initiative to compile months of area and on-line research, Gill found that there were no Catholic mission trips available, especially those who would welcome teens under the age of 18. But through a series of divinely led communications, Gill received a prayer request for a Catholic family from Louisiana, who was moving to Costa Rica with their children to form a mission house. And that family became an answer to her prayer.

The Greg and Colleen Mitchell family, with their five living children, reside in Costa Rica where they serve the poor. The death of their son Bryce inspired them to form the Saint Bryce Foundation from which to serve.

As the Mitchell family evangelizes in Costa Rica they invite groups to travel to the area for short-term mission trips on which participants assist in their evangelization and work efforts along with the opportunity to attend Mass, Holy Hour, Eucharistic Adoration and prayer time. Two priests, who minister in a large area that stretches to 40 outlying communities, are working to build 40 chapels, at the cost of $3,000-$4,000 each, one for each community where the remote indigenous people wish to gather for prayer, catechesis and fellowship.

Finding this opportunity was a treasure for this eager group and after receiving this summer from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who met with the students, many of whom are home-schooled, and who offered a contribution toward their endeavor, they began in earnest to organize the mission’s logistics, learn as much Spanish as possible, build a website and begin fundraising efforts. Initially the students began a letter-writing campaign and offered presentations to a few parishes as they sought support.

A car wash, garage sales, a sponsored trail hike, a booth at the Faith, Family and Fatherhood Festival and grant writing have kept the students busy and focused on their goal.

Gill says, “We had the fundraisers. They were successful because the kids worked together and they prepared them to be together in Costa Rica,” where the living conditions are more primitive than they are used to in the states.

“Their’s no running water, no toilets,” she says.

The faith-filled teens all agreed that this will be a life-changing trip for them and they are prepared to work hard. Though they don’t know exactly what to expect, they are excited to be able to share their faith with others and have the opportunity to experience first hand how another culture lives. And they believe they will bring home a new appreciation for life in the U.S. as well as for their Catholic faith.

Emma MacDonald says she is looking forward to going and shares with the other teens “a deep desire to share the love of Christ with others.” Her sister Katie says, “I love learning about the Truth and sharing it with others. I’ve thought about the people in Costa Rica who have never heard the Gospel. … It makes me want to do something and give them the Truth that I really love.”

These trailblazers hope that other teen groups will take up the challenge to spread the Gospel on foreign soil and agree with Jenn MacDonald when she says, “This is an opportunity for our diocese to open its heart on so many levels. … We can be a witness to the universal Church. … to bring Christ into their presence in some form.

For more information on the teens dedicated to spreading the love of Christ in Costa Rica or to donate to their efforts visit www.catholicmission.org.

For information on the Saint Bryce Foundation visit www.saintbryce.org.

Pictured from left are mission teens Katie Killen, Brenna Gill, AJ Gill, Michael McGovern, Andrew MacDonald, Emma MacDonald and Kathryn MacDonald. Not pictured are David Landrigan and Eddie Black.
BY DENISE FEDOROW

SYRACUSE — Sporting black T-shirts with the powerful phrase “Believe” printed in white on the front and symbols for the Year of the Faith on the back, almost 1,000 seventh and eighth graders from across the diocese spent the day preparing for their upcoming Confirmations at the diocesan rally.

The Confirmation rally was held Oct. 13 at Waawasee Middle School in Syracuse. The youth arrived at 8:30 a.m. and stayed until 5:30 p.m. The morning session included worship music by Popple and a keynote address by APoX Ministries — Brad Farmer and Gene Monterastelli.

There was also a teen witness before lunch.

After lunch, students had an opportunity for 30 minutes of Eucharistic Adoration where they also learned “the best way to know Jesus is through Mary, His mother. She walked with Him, she knows Him better than anyone else. She helps us see her son is truly present in the Eucharist.”

They also prayed a decade of the rosary and were told, “The rosary is an incredible prayer we have as a Church — it’s a shortened version of the Gospels through Mary’s eyes.”

The emcee for the day, Lindsay Klinker, got the students on their feet and moving after that quiet prayerful time. Before leading them into a rousing round of Simons Says, she told the crowd, “We were face-to-face with God today — how awesome is that? The only thing more awesome is when we get to receive Him later in the Eucharist during Mass.”

After entertaining the youth with his juggling skills Brad Farmer of APoX told a personal story about his sister who was born with cerebral palsy.

“At a glance it didn’t seem like she had a lot to offer the world with her broken body — but when you looked deeper — I believe I lived with a true-life saint, even if the world didn’t see it,” he said.

When Farmer was a senior and his sister was about 11, he said he felt compelled to get up early one Sunday morning. His sister was having a hard time breathing, and a tugging at Farmer’s heart told him to tell his sister he loved her, to just be present.

“She was rushed to the hospital and Farmer began praying what he called the “powerhouse of prayers — the rosary.”

That morning Farmer related he was focused and lost in prayer and at one point he saw his sister, but she was running smoothly and fast.

“At that moment I was in peace and found out later that was the moment she stepped into eternity,” Farmer said.

He said he told the story for two reasons — to let them know the power of prayer is real and to remind the rally participants not to judge or themselves or others based on some false societal view of values, but to know, “the reality is this room is filled with powerful, incredible people — you all have a superpower mission for life.”

Monterastelli and Farmer joked and juggled and related the story of the “Juggler of Notre Dame,” who after a difficult life realized he too had a special and unique gift to offer the world.

The young people were impressed with the presenters. Mary Soptich of St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart said her favorite part of the day was “the juggling guy.”

Robert Meyers, also of St. Thomas said he liked the storytelling and the food. When asked how he felt the rally would help prepare him for Confirmation, he said, “It teaches us to be good and believe in God and Jesus.”

A young lady from St. Anthony of Padua in Angola said, “There’s a lot of spirit in this and a lot of fun. You can see and understand what God is trying to tell us.” She believed the rally helped put her faith in everyday terms.

At Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, the opening hymn was “Come Holy Ghost.”

“When I walk down that aisle and hear that prayer — that beautiful ancient prayer — I like when it is sung with gusto,” Bishop Rhoades said.

During the homily Bishop Rhoades said he appreciated the question the young man in the Gospel reading asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” because “everything we do should be to that purpose.”

He said even though the young man observed the Commandments, Jesus knew he was too attached to his wealth, which is why he asked him to give it away all.

“Serving God should be our number one purpose in life. There’s a very important sentence in that Gospel, ‘he went away sad’ and I bet the rest of his life he wasn’t happy because money doesn’t buy us happiness — the Lord does.”

Bishop Rhoades told the students, “Without God’s grace not one of us in this room — including me — could get to heaven. We receive the gifts of God’s grace primarily through the sacraments.”

Speaking of the words on the T-shirts, “I Believe;” the bishop said he liked it and said, “Faith is more than words — it’s also deeds. How we live, especially when it’s tough, when we’re rejected, when we’re criticized. Those saints you’ll choose will never go away sad like the man in the Gospel, but instead you’ll inherit everlasting life.”

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Saint Joseph Parish, a vibrant, Catholic, faith community of nearly 900 families and a large K-8 grade school in South Bend, seeks an Administrative Assistant. This full-time position furthers the mission of the parish by serving as the first point of contact for all who visit, telephone, or otherwise communicate with the parish. The position provides administrative support to parish staff through oversight of the parish calendar and office supply inventory, drafting of correspondence, maintenance of sacramental records and parish census data, preparation of the weekly bulletin, assisting parishioners with Mass intentions, and other duties as assigned to support the goal of ensuring efficient operation of the Parish Center.

Qualified applicants will have excellent written and oral communication skills and interpersonal skills, strong organizational skills, and a high degree of computer aptitude. The successful candidate will also have the ability to prioritize tasks and work with frequent interruptions.


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THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

29th Sunday in ordinary Time

T he first reading for this weekend is from the Book of Isaiah, precisely from its third and last part. Isaiah on several occasions describes, or refers to, a loyal and devoted servant of God who endures outrageous insults and severe misfortunes. Yet this servant never despair nor does he ever rebel against these unhappy events as they come to him. Furthermore, through, and from, these sufferings, good prevails. It prevails in his own faithfulness. And, the glory of God shines through all that happens.

While these verses were written many years before Christ, pious Christians always have seen in them a prefiguration of their gentle Savior, the innocent lamb of God, sinless and merciful, good and perfect, but the victim of viciousness and of the indifference of so many. As its second reading for this weekend, the Church presents a selection from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Typically throughout Hebrews, the reading is strong in its Old Testament imagery, especially in the symbolism of the ancient rituals of the Jewish temple. In A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed the temple, as a reprimand after the Jews unsuccessfully attempted to revolt against Rome. The priests were killed or scattered. The old rituals came to an end. They have not yet been restored.

However, for the first two-thirds of the first century, these ceremonies in which priests, and sacrifices, and victims of sacrifices, figured, the rites of the temple were familiar to young and old, great and small. St. John the Baptist
dees a more than a chronicle of Jewish custom and history. It sees Jesus as the great high priest. The sacrifice in the Lord’s sacrifice on Calvary, He is the victim. His sacrifice achieves true reconciliation with God.

The reading also reminds us that Jesus, the Son of God, also was human as we are. He never sinned. He was tempted, however. He loves us. He understands us.

St. Mark’s Gospel supplies the last reading. In this reading, two Apostles approached Jesus. They are James and John, the sons of Zebedee. The forecasts by Jesus of the coming of a new kingdom to the world, namely the kingdom of God, have intrigued them. Yet they misunderstand the true meaning of the kingdom of God. Presuming it has earthly properties, they want to have privileged places in this coming; glorious kingdom. They ask the Lord to give them these high places.

Jesus, reminding them that the path to the new kingdom will be neither smooth nor straight. To progress along this path, any disciple must identify with Christ in the fullness, abandoning self, self-interests and comfort. We are like Jesus, to sacrifice self, and indeed to give all of self in the sacrifice.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

Definitive and absolute reign in history. In Jesus, the true nature of messiahship, of history itself, is revealed. The Messiah is the one who comes to rule not upon the throne but upon the wood of the cross. History is not the dominion of the powerful; it is strong, but of the God who loves unto the end. And through Jesus’ messianic rule, all are invited into His family, both Jews and Gentiles.

Reflection

The LORD came into the world as the Redeemer. His mission was to redeem, or rescue, humanity from its own plight, a plight created by willful sin and voluntary rejection of God. Sin had disordered and weakened human nature. In many cases, sin reigns supreme in the world.

To follow Christ with sincerity means to be true to God despite human weaknesses pointing the other way, and it means resisting sin and its effects throughout earthly life. These readings call us to face all these realities. We live in a material world. As disciples, we look to the spirit. We live in a world in which sin is strong, and sinners are many. It is a world with little love, and with little justice.

So, we must swim upstream. It will be difficult, accomplished only with God’s help. But, if we ask for it, God’s help will come. We can, and will, succeed in our purpose to be with God in the great new kingdom of peace and life.
Ten principles of the spiritual life

1. “Spirituality” or being “spiritual” means nothing more (but also nothing less) than being animated and guided by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, which is received at Baptism. This is what St. Paul means by “living according to the Spirit” or “being spiritual.” It does not necessarily mean some intense or idiosyncratic interiority.

2. Perhaps the most helpful way we can understand the spiritual life is to see our goal as the reformation by grace (particularly by the Holy Spirit, often being “uncreated”) of the image of God within us, wounded by original and actual sin. Grace purifies our intellect in knowing the truth and rectifies our will in loving the good.

3. Essential to spiritual health — maintaining the health and vigor of the Holy Spirit’s life within us — are prayer, silence and nourishment through reading. All of these require dedication, discipline and the development of habit.

4. Prayer, according to Clement of Alexandria (+212) is “conversation with God.” Or, according to St. John of Damascus (+749), “the lifting of the heart and mind to God,” or, according to St. Teresa of Avila (+1582), “nothing else than a close sharing between friends … taking time to be alone with Him who loves us.” All prayer begins with God’s initiative: it is never merely the product of our efforts, but fruitful prayer does require our effort.

5. There are three “expressions” or types of prayer: vocal or verbal, meditative and contemplative. Vocal prayer uses words (e.g., form prayers, prayers in one’s own words, the “Jesus prayer”); meditation engages the imagination as we consider the mysteries of the faith of the words of sacred Scripture (e.g., the rosary or lectio divina); contemplative prayer is the prayer of union, often wordless, achieved in silence and the gift of God to the soul, involving an intense experience of God’s presence to the soul.

6. Silence is an essential prerequisite to prayer and the spiritual life. It is imperative to cultivate times of silence within our daily life. Silence helps us to grow in self-awareness, which is essential to genuine growth (since pride is the absence of self-perception induced by self-absorption).

7. Nourishment through solid spiritual reading is also essential. Pride of place belongs to the inspired text of sacred Scriptures. Scripture must be read Christologically. Christ is the key to unlocking the meaning of the Scriptures as a whole — including the Old Testament. He is the Word mediated through words. He is the lens through which all of the Scriptures are to be read. If you plan on reading the Scriptures, always start with the Gospels, which create “the lens” for the rest of the Bible. Small bits of Scripture each day over which we can mull or meditate are the basis. Also helpful is to read the Scriptures along with the whole Church: following the Lectionary cycle, we can follow the daily Mass readings and make them a source of real nourishment.

8. All of these practices are predicated upon a self-disciplined ability to shut off the TV, computer, the cell phone, and the iPod, and set time aside every day for the Lord. The secret is to start small and let it grow. All of these practices have to be in accord with one’s state in life. A mother of several children may not be expected to live like a Trappist; one has to discover what works for one’s self, based upon the formula outlined above. Like everything else in balance, importance is key.

9. These practices will be helpful only if you are striving to live fully the sacramental life of the Church. I mean prayer through faithful and regular celebration of the Eucharist, which the Church teaches is the most effective thing we can do, and the regular celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

10. In the end, it is all about habit (not sporadic behavior, but as a firm and reliable disposition of the will): inculcating good habits and root- ing out bad habits assisted all the while by grace. This is why regularity is more important than volume. It is more than mere repetitions of the same thing that alone is insufficient because it means we are relying primarily upon our own efforts and not upon the grace that God offers. Start small — be faithful — let God do the rest.

MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

GUEST COMMENTARY

A RANSOM

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A golden opportunity

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Laterly I have been reflecting on what the Year of Faith, Oct. 11, 2012, to Nov. 24, 2013, which was proclaimed by our pope recently, can mean for those Catholics who seek to grow spiritually. It is similar to the purpose of the season of Lent, which is a time of renewal and conversion. The Year of Faith affords every Catholic the opportunity to focus on his or her relationship with Jesus Christ and belief in what the Church teaches.

During this year it might be well to examine just how much you really know about the Church and what it teaches. Many of us recite the creed by heart but do not know or think very much about the words we profess.

We hear about the Vatican Council which opened 50 years ago on Oct. 11, but some, or should I say a great number of Catholics, have never really taken time to read or study any of its documents.

Hopefully, as Pope Benedict has said, this Year of Faith will stir up a “new impetus to the mission of the whole Church to lead men (and women) out of the desert in which they find themselves, to the place of life, of friendship with Jesus.” He hopes it will “arouse in everyone the aspiration to learn what the Church really teaches and to profess the faith with new conviction.”

Our pope also reminds us that faith must be rooted in love. Faith without love is empty. Our faith should draw us to Jesus Christ and to people building God’s kingdom of love and justice He gave to His followers.

This is an important invitation for each of us to assess the state of our own faith and reflect on the way we live. We might ask ourselves these questions: How important is the Eucharist to me? Do I go to Mass only because it is an obligation? Do I have an active relationship with Jesus? Do I communicate with Him regularly? Are doing acts of charity part of the routine of my life? How much or what do I know about Church teaching?

Do most people know that I am a Catholic or a Christian? Do I ever express my faith in Jesus to others, especially the people who touch my daily life? Do I separate my religion from the rest of my life or is it integral to how I live?

This Year of Faith can be a time for each of us to renew and strengthen our faith. It can be a time of conversion if we are open to the Holy Spirit and cooperate with God’s grace. If we participate fully in the activities offered, we will strengthen ourselves, our parish, our diocese and the entire Church.

I hope you take this golden opportunity.
MARIAN DEFEATS WESTVIEW IN REGIONAL FINAL

BY JOE KOSINSKI

MISHAWAKA — “To deliver with a great Multitude or a small company.” That would be the theme of the opening round of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) playoffs at Marian’s Otolski Field as the Mishawaka Catholic Saints’ 40-plus players faced off against the 14-member squad of the West Side Catholic Cardinals.

The Saints would start the game off with a big charge highlighted by 43-yard and 34-yard scampers and bolts by Deonte Nyengo. The potential end-zone romps were halted magnificently, by the open-field tackles of Darius McKnight.

The drive would, however, sputter as on fourth and seven, Saints’ quarterback Alex Morton’s pass attempt fell harmlessly to the turf as the Cardinals would be forced to start in the shadows of their own goalposts.

The West Side squad would have little success on their inaugural drive being forced to punt after three plays of no yards. The great news is that the kick would sail over the Saints’ would-be return man and take a favorable bounce to the 30.

The navy-and-columbia-laced Cardinals’ defense would be as difficult to navigate as the Berring Strait in winter as runs by Saints’ Edgar Moralis, Alexander Horvath and Nyengo were stopped before they could get going, forcing a turnover on downs.

The West Side offense started to make some headway with the bruising attack of big backs Courtney Rowell and Jared Horban but came up empty with a completed pass from Collin Daniels to Jared Kazmierczak netted just seven yards on a fourth and 14.

With just 38 seconds left in the half the Saints went to the air, first with a screen pass and then a halfback pass from Horvath to Jacob Maxwell opening up the scoring as the 45-yard play broke the deadlock, 6-0.

The West Side team started the second half as they began the game with little success. The same could not be said of Horvath, who finally broke free out of the backfield and dashed 62 yards to pay dirt, the kick after failing to make the margin now, 12-0, Saints.

Horvath would put more points on the board with another 22-yard scamper into the end zone creating an 18-point cushion.

The Cardinals still had fight in them as they marched down the field with big runs again by the one-two punch of Horban and Rowell and 20-yard competition but with fourth and 12 at the 22, Daniels’ toss into the end zone landed just off the fingertips of the receiver finalizing the post-season for the team. The Saints won 18-0.

“I was a little upset at half time with my team. I said they were being pushed around and dominated in the trenches by the Cardinals,” remarked Saint head coach Tony Violi. “I challenged them to play hard and they responded in the second half. We will have to play all four quarters against the regular season champion Panthers next Sunday.”

“We played with heart which has been our strength all season. By far, this is the absolute best team I’ve been associated with when it comes to chemistry,” explained Cardinal coach Giles Horban. “MC kept on coming at us. As a coach you wish for a better outcome, but I’m proud of the way our kids overcame and played."

The second round of the playoffs at Otolski Field starting at 4 p.m. will see the St. Anthony/St. Joseph/St. Pius Panthers next Sunday.

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Comic actor Kevin James wants to ‘glorify God in every way’

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — He doesn’t exactly advertise it, but the “king of Queens” is a Catholic family man.

Kevin James, who played Doug Heffernan for nine seasons on the CBS sitcom and has since branched out into movies, has no problem talking about his values and how it affects his career.

“I am involved in my faith, it becomes more and more important that you know, it becomes a difficult, difficult position. You have a platform and you don’t want to do anything that doesn’t glorify God in every way,” James told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Philadelphia.

“I can’t play a priest in every film, either. You definitely want to have a positive message. I want to be able to sit and watch my movies with my children,” added James, who is married with two daughters and one son. Having control over and writing the material, according to him, is a key to “being inspiring and (to) move people in a positive way.”

James, 47, is promoting his upcoming film comedy, “Here Comes the Boom.” In it, he plays a high school science teacher who once loved his work but has “lost his mojo,” as he put it, but gets it back when budget cuts threaten the job of the music teacher (Henry Winkler), who never lost his love for teaching.

James’ character even goes so far as to train to be a mixed martial arts fighter — which James did in real life to prepare for the movie — in the belief that even a loser’s payday in such a bout will reap the bucks necessary to save the music program.

“It’s not that James admits to some road-to-Damascus moment that made his faith all the more relevant to him. “I was born and raised Catholic and absolutely love my faith and learn more and more about it all the time,” he said. “It’s nice to have that going into whatever you do, whatever part of life you take upon yourself.”

“It might have been, though, that James had his own lost-his-mojo moment. “I’ve been very guilty, a lot of not knowing my faith too much and just praying when I needed it when something bad happened in my life and not being thankful when things turned good,” he told CNS. “The more I realized how important it is, the more I want to learn about it and do the right thing.

All good is from Him (God), and so I want to honor Him. It’s honestly about learning more and instilling that in my kids and my friends, and those around me.”

Even before he hit it big on the small screen with “The King of Queens,” James was known as a standup comic who worked clean — but not necessarily as a byproduct of his faith. “It was easier to get on television and it was more universal” than using coarse language, he said. “I saw people who were kind of fity in the clubs and they were very, very funny (in) what they were doing. But you weren’t going to be able to get on ’The Tonight Show.’ I was selfish — I didn’t want to have to change my material.”

James has been in the public eye for 14 years, first with “The King of Queens” and a series of mostly hit film comedies including “Hitch,” “Paul Blart: Mall Cop,” “Zookeeper” and “Grown-Ups.”

What if it all comes to an end?

“There’s always that possibility,” James replied. “It’s His will, not mine. If it doesn’t happen, I’ve definitely had a great run. I’ll continue to do it, or find my path to something else. He’s given me the platform to do it. It’s great, yeah. I love it.”

“Here Comes the Boom” (Columbia)

Director Frank Coraci extols the Christian virtue of self-sacrifice through the unlikely yet inspiring tale of an ordinary man who goes to extraordinary lengths to help others. When the penny-pinching principal (Greg Germann) of a failing public high school threatens to eliminate its popular music program — and axe the beloved teacher (Henry Winkler) who runs it — a faculty colleague (Kevin James) pledges to raise the funds needed to save the activity. Having failed to do so by more conventional means, the one-time college wrestler becomes a mixed martial arts cage fighter. Despite being beaten to a pulp in each bout, he inspires his students and coworkers, especially the school nurse (Salma Hayek) who tenderly patches his wounds. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.
What’s Happening?

Healing Mass
Fort Wayne — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will sponsor a Healing Mass Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. Father Andrew Badzinski will celebrate for those grieving the loss of a child. For information contact Dorothy Schuerman at dschuerman@diocesefwbs.org or (260) 489-3537 ext. 207.

Knights breakfast at Queen of Angels
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will have a breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Faber Activities Center, 1500 W. State Blvd. Adults are $6, children 6-12 are $3 and a family is $20.

Knights plan breakfast, blood drive
Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878, 114 W. First St., will host a pancake and sausage breakfast to benefit Mishawaka Catholic School Saturday, Oct. 20, from 8-11 a.m. Tickets are $5 for adults, $2 for children 5 to 10 years old and under 5 are free. The Knights will also have a blood drive with the South Bend Medical Foundation on Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Council Hall bloodmobile from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. South Bend Medical Foundation will donate $10 for each unit of blood collected to help support cancer services.

Craft show, luncheon and bake sale
South Bend — The Sacred Heart Altar and Rosary Society will have a craft show, luncheon and bake sale Saturday, Oct. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the social hall, 63586 U.S. 31-S. Call (574) 291-3775 for information.

Tailing and trivia
Avilla — The St. Mary HASA will have a tailgate and trivia night Saturday, Oct. 20, in the St. Mary School gym. Tailgating starts at 6 p.m. with trivia at 7 p.m. Teams of 10 are $10 per person. Teams are encouraged to create a theme with prizes awarded for the best theme. Call Michelle Myers at (260) 897-2562 or michellemyers77@gmail.com for information.

Craft fair at St. Charles
Fort Wayne — The St. Charles Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 100 vendors as well as lunch will be available. St. Charles is on the corner of Trier and Reed roads.

DCCW October meeting
Fort Wayne — The DCCW will meet Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the St. Joseph Hospital assembly room at 10 a.m. Catholic students from “Catholics On A Mission” will speak on their planned trip and mission to Costa Rica. Sweaters for the poor are also being collected.

Capuchin Brother Leo Wollenweber dies
DETROIT — Capuchin Brother Leo Wollenweber died on Friday, Oct. 5, at the age of 95. The Funeral Mass was Oct. 9, at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. Brother Leo was invested as a Capuchin in 1940 and perpetually professed in 1944. He served the Province of St. Joseph as Father Solanus’ secretary and in several roles throughout his Capuchin career. Brother Leo has served as the vice postulator for the Cause of Solanus Casey since 1974.

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogan@diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.
Your Faith & Girl Scouts

The new Girl Scouts My Promise, My Faith pin invites girls in grades K-12 to experience a faith journey through exploration of the Girl Scout Law and teachings from their faith. Adult volunteers partner with Catholic girls by guiding them through a personal faith journey and linking the national pin with the Catholic religious recognitions.

For more information, please contact:
Teena Weathersby-Hampton
Director of Mission Delivery
800.283.4812 ext. 132

girl scouts of northern indiana michiana

Contributing to this story was Sarah Delaney.